# Joint Implementation Team

No comments.

# Pre-Ordering Phase 1 - LAN-to-LAN Access

No comments.

Pre-Ordering Phase 1 - Transferring Files via Diskette
No comments.

Pre-Ordering Phase 1 - Transferring Files Electronically

No comments.

# Phase II Interactive Pre-ordering and Interactive Direct Entry Ordering

#### BellSouth States:

"AT&T's response to BellSouth's March 28, 1997 Monthly Surveillance Report describes the development of a third interface, Common Gateway Interface (CGI). This interface will exist as an alternative for those CLECS who want to develop their own presentation systems for use with BellSouth's data and was described in BellSouth's testimony described in the AT&T arbitration proceeding. BellSouth proposed this alternative in September, 1996 and has been working with AT&T on this alternative since it received AT&T's request for data in January, 1997. However, because the CGI alternative builds upon the LENS interface, firm specifications for the CGI interface cannot be provided until the LENS interface is finalized."

### AT&T Response:

BellSouth appears to indicate that AT&T and BellSouth began working on this issue in January, 1997. Following is an accurate representation of the timeline and activities surrounding this issue:

- AT&T and BellSouth first discussed BellSouth's Web Proposal on August 23, 1996.
   During that meeting, AT&T expressed its desire and need for a machine-to-machine interface rather than a Web-based interface.
- In response to AT&T's request, BellSouth prepared a "White Paper" on September 6, 1996. BellSouth subsequently presented its "White Paper" to this Commission as an option it was willing to provide. This White Paper described two alternative "data stream", "Tag Value" methods of providing the relevant queries and database responses that BellSouth could generate from its Web or CGI Server instead of Web Pages.
- In the following months, AT&T repeatedly requested additional specifications from BellSouth regarding both the Web Page and Tag Value options. None were provided.
- In the Georgia Arbitration Hearings (Docket 6801-U) in November, 1996, BellSouth's witness Gloria Calhoun stated that "what we offered to do was send them (AT&T) just a data stream, unformatted, unpresented". Despite this testimony, however, and despite AT&T's specific and repeated requests for a machine-to-machine interface and the requests for specifications for other interfaces BellSouth was developing, Ms. Calhoun also stated "that's not something that I think they've taken us up on yet." (See attachment 1-Transcript of Gloria Calhoun in Docket 6801-U) Shortly thereafter, AT&T attempted to continue its dialogue on this subject with BellSouth, only to be told that it would be December or January before BellSouth could meet with AT&T. BellSouth did confirm that the Tag Value method was still available.

- A meeting was finally held on January 23, 1997. During this meeting BellSouth stated that its focus, resources and priority were dedicated to the implementation of the Web Page interface scheduled for release on March 31, 1997. BellSouth also stated that it felt it could implement the "Post" Tag Value method described in the White Paper 30 days after the Web Page interface was implemented. Both parties felt May 1, 1997 would be an obtainable target date for this to occur. AT&T renewed its long standing request for specifications on both the Web Page and Tag Value proposals. BellSouth subsequently provided a document, which upon review by AT&T was determined to be only a slightly enhanced "use case" similar to that contained in the original August 15, 1996, report to the Commission. It provided little information of value to AT&T for use in the development or design of software that would be needed by AT&T.
- The information AT&T needed was not made available until March 20, 1997, and only then following escalation to the executive level in BellSouth. This delay in providing specifications resulted in AT&T's determination that July 1, 1997 was the earliest possible implementation date for AT&T to make use of the Tag Value data stream, given the development and testing required by both parties.
- During the BellSouth CLEC Training Seminar held on April 1, 2 and April 3, 1997, BellSouth presented both the September 6, 1996, and March 20, 1997, documents to the CLEC industry. These documents were represented as an available machine-to-machine alternative to its LENS web pages interface.
- On April 8, 1997 (5 days later), BellSouth reported during the weekly Joint AT&T/BellSouth Implementation Team call that BellSouth had discovered that the Tag Value method described in the September 6 White Paper and the March 20 specifications was not feasible in general, and would definitely not be available for use by July 1, 1997.
- On conference calls held on April 14 and 15, BellSouth and AT&T discussed
  alternatives ranging from BellSouth delivering Tag Values as originally committed to
  the possibility of finding a commercial software program to perform the required
  conversion work. Both BellSouth and AT&T estimated the time to build such a
  converter to be approximately 2-3 months. No such commercial software was
  found.
- On April 25, BellSouth faxed to AT&T specifications describing its Web-page outputs, with which AT&T could build its own conversion programs for machine-tomachine operation.
- On May 5, 1997, BellSouth, in a LENS demonstration for AT&T, stated that it had
  changed the Web page screens as recently as Sunday, May 4. BellSouth further
  stated that it would continue to change LENS on no less than a monthly basis for

the remainder of the year, and that it was currently producing two releases a week to correct existing errors. BellSouth also advised AT&T that the old releases of LENS would not be available for use once the new releases were in production. The net result of these actions by BellSouth is that the specifications provided to AT&T on April 25 are no longer usable, and it is not feasible for AT&T to attempt to build a machine-to-machine conversion process in such an extremely unstable environment. Indeed, this lack of feasibility is confirmed by the BellSouth through the following information about its views on the need for firm specifications and time for implementation:

- --Its statement from the top of page 8 of this report that "because the CGI alternative builds upon the LENS interface, firm specifications for the CGI interface cannot be provided until the LENS interface is finalized."
- --The requirements BellSouth has placed on AT&T during the planning and negotiations of the permanent interfaces, in which BellSouth continually maintains that <u>any</u> changes in specifications provided by AT&T most likely would result in delays in implementation by BellSouth.
- The following language from Paragraph 5.1.6-Attachment 15 of the AT&T/BellSouth Georgia interconnection agreement, which demonstrates an orderly, planned, cooperative approach to changes to interfaces. "AT&T and BellSouth agree to adapt the interface based on evolving standards...The Parties agree to use best efforts to implement such changes, including testing of changes introduced, within 7 months of the publication date of guidelines. This preceding target implementation obligation may be modified by mutual agreement."

Thus, not only did BellSouth renege on its commitments to AT&T, which were made to AT&T in numerous meetings and also to this Commission by Gloria Calhoun, it also created an environment which prevents AT&T from using LENS in anything but a human-to-machine environment through at least the remainder of the year. BellSouth's proposed interfaces will thus remain discriminatory through the end of the year.

# Ordering - Electronic Data Interchange

#### BellSouth States:

"AT&T Comments on BellSouth's March 28, 1997 monthly surveillance report suggest that BellSouth's EDI implementation did not include all tariffed services. However, this has never been a requirement. In its June 12, 1996 order in Docket 6352, the Commission found that "...it is imperative that a reseller have access to the same service ordering provisions, service trouble reporting and informational databases for their customers as does BellSouth" (emphasis added). BellSouth efforts relating to EDI have been based on this objective. BellSouth does not create orders for all services for its retail customers on a totally mechanized basis, nor are such orders always created on the initial contact with a customer. Many services, particularly complex services such as the MultiServ example raised by AT&T, require account team intervention which often results in manual order handling. Services requiring account team intervention, therefore, have not been mapped to EDI for CLEC customers."

### AT&T Response:

BellSouth accurately quoted the Commission's initial Order in Docket 6352-U, which stated at page 10 that it is imperative that a reseller have access to the same service ordering provisions, service trouble reporting and informational databases for its customers as does BellSouth. BellSouth further states that its efforts relating to EDI have been based on this objective. However, it failed to quote the Commission's second Order in Docket 6352-U, which states on page 4, "BellSouth is to make fully operational and available by December 15, 1996 the Electronic Data Interface capability for receipt and transmission of orders for services in BellSouth's General Subscriber Services and Private Line Tariffs." BellSouth's statement that inclusion of all tariffed services "has never been a requirement" contradicts the Commission's Order.

In any event, BellSouth does not provide new entrants with nondiscriminatory access where BellSouth's order handling is not fully automated. For example, BellSouth accesses various databases when processing a complex service order and at some point enters that complex order into its systems. To be nondiscriminatory, BellSouth must provide new entrants with access to those various databases, and with the capability to enter the complex order directly into BellSouth's system, just as BellSouth does.

# **Trouble Report Entry**

No comments.

# **Daily Usage Data**

No comments.

## **Customer Records - Mechanized Access**

#### BellSouth States:

In its Milestones Accomplished:

Requirements developed

4/18/97

In its Milestones Ahead:

Work plan for implementation developed; dates for design completion, implementation, and testing determined

4/22/97

## AT&T Response:

In its April 15th surveillance report, BellSouth stated that it had completed the development of Customer Service Records (CSRs) requirements by April 18th and would develop the workplan by April 22nd. When asked at a meeting between AT&T and BellSouth on April 22nd, BellSouth stated that it did not have any additional written details or requirements for CSRs other than the four pages of view graphs BellSouth had provided previously. On May 1st, AT&T again asked BellSouth for the CSR information, referencing BellSouth's April 15th Surveillance report. Finally on May 7th, BellSouth provided additional information, which AT&T is currently reviewing.

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manually re-enter it. And we suggested that there are ways that they could not have to manually re-enter it, even if they wanted to have it in their own separate ordering database. There is software that can be used to read that information that's sitting on your screen, to turn it into data that can be read by the computer and that can be manipulated then by the computer and integrated from program to program.

AT&T was not happy with that solution and so what we offered to do was, rather than present the information to them on a screen -- that's called a presentation system or the presentation software that was described in my direct testimony -- what we offered to do was send them just a data stream, unformatted, unpresented. A way to think about that is if you've ever -- before there was Windows, if you ever looked at a file on a computer screen that just looked like symbols and gibberish and -- it wasn't presented, it wasn't in a presentation format, it was just computer language and it wasn't something that could be read by a human. We said we can send it to you that way, so that you can pick it up and let your system manipulate it if you want to use it that That was the purpose of the September 6 white paper. But again, that's not something that I think they've taken us up on yet.

So the real difference -- to kind of give you a

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

#### DOCKET NO. 5825-U

This is to certify that I have served copies of the foregoing AT&T's Response to BellSouth's April 15, 1997 Monthly Surveillance Report for Electronic Interfaces upon all parties of record by depositing same in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, this fourteenth day of May, 1997:

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Judy Stephens

# **ATTACHMENT 15**





A. J. Calabrese LIAM Vice President Southern States

July 28, 1997

Room 10144 1200 Peachtree St. Atlanta, GA 30309 404 810-4575 FAX: 404 810-4593

Mr. Quinton Sanders, Director AT&T Regional Account Team Suite 410 1960 West Exchange Place Tucker, GA 30084

#### Dear Quinton:

Now that we have both returned from vacation, I am responding to your letter of June 18. In that letter, I thought you fell short of answering my questions regarding billing process improvement and, instead, attached a June 11, 1997, letter that offers to train AT&T to reduce order input errors and ensure that preordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance, and billing processes are clearly understood. In that letter you also seemed to be comparing AT&T's local order entry performance (after only a few months of experience) to BellSouth's billing performance (given its decades of experience). Nevertheless, AT&T is always interested in improving customer service and will certainly avail itself of real opportunities to improve our customers' experience and to work with BellSouth to ensure that all processes are clearly understood by both companies.

The performance data you shared in the June 11 letter (which I first received as an attachment to the June 18 letter) regarding errors and primary targets for improvement are substantiated by our own data and provide a start toward understanding the problem and the joint plan for improvement. AT&T's analysis of the data indicates that the Address Validation errors are largely attributable to input errors made by service representatives as they take customer information they view in BellSouth's IC Reference system and recreate it by manually retyping it into the Local Service Request format. AT&T anticipated that this input error problem would be significant, and we attempted to develop an interface to LENS via "tagged data" to avoid this very situation. However, as you know, BellSouth was unable to develop the "tagged data" capability that we had agreed upon.

Since the opportunity for that development has passed, AT&T must manually transfer information from BellSouth's database to our own internal ordering interface. Even as AT&T migrates its users from IC-Reference to BellSouth's LENS application, data must still be manually transferred into AT&T's ordering system. Therefore, I am not sure that additional training on the use of BellSouth's validation system, either IC-Reference or BellSouth's LENS, would be especially helpful in reducing the types of errors that AT&T is experiencing because of the manual processes AT&T is relegated to use. These errors are largely the result of AT&T having to use the interim systems available today and having to manually link data in order to complete a service order.

In fact, AT&T feels that order entry errors would be eliminated only if BellSouth provided an interface at parity to the interface it uses for itself. BellSouth has the advantage of comparatively well designed ordering systems that allow the BellSouth agent to validate data and populate the BellSouth service order without manual re-entry of the pre-order information. Indeed, BellSouth's order entry system for itself practically eliminates BellSouth's risk of service order error by providing interactive editing prior to order submission. BellSouth has a great advantage over AT&T in that BellSouth has been able to eliminate re-work associated with order clarification that AT&T must perform.

Since parity interfaces are currently unavailable, the performance data that you provided with your June 18 letter simply validates the fact that manual interfaces such as IC-Reference will handicap new market entrants by substantially increasing the pre-order entry error rate. AT&T agrees with BellSouth's assessment that it will be difficult to achieve the levels of customer satisfaction AT&T desires in this manual environment.

We feel that continuous communication and sharing learnings are vital to monitor progress as we both strive to improve our performance. We also encourage BellSouth to improve its performance and provide parity electronic interfaces to AT&T as an urgent priority so that AT&T can efficiently meet the level of service that our customers demand and deserve.

Sincerely.

Al Calabrese

Attachment

cc: Pam Nelson

Caller

BellSouth Interconnection Services
Suite 410
1960 West Exchange Place

770 492-7560 Fax 770 621-0629 Quinton E. Sanders
Senior Director —
AT&T Regional Account Team

June 18, 1997

Tucker, Georgia 30084

Mr. A. J. Calabrese LIAM Vice President Southern States AT&T Room 10144 1200 Peachtree Street Atlanta, Georgia 30309

#### Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of June 17 addressing the Atlanta Journal and Constitution article concerning billing errors. Let me respond to your questions in that letter.

First, BellSouth is also concerned about errors on customers bills. We have many safeguards built into our mechanized systems to avoid errors. In addition, we often develop new procedures/processes to improve ordering and billing accuracy. We proactively audit our own ordering and billing procedures. . . and systems to detect human or machine errors. When we find a billing discrepancy we correct it right away in a "customer friendly" manner. In this regard, as the ESSX® article makes clear, our current policy is: "Where cases of overbilling are discovered, we will refund the overbilling - with interest, without any netting for past underbilling. On the other hand, we will not assess charges for past underbilling; we will simply adjust future billing appropriately". Also, I should point out that our error rate is very low compared to the number of bills and number of items we process. In any event, immediately upon resale of an ESSX System, BellSouth will verify the billing for that system.

Let me respond to your comment regarding BellSouth's compliance to its billing obligations under our Interconnection Agreement. Attachment 6 of the agreement relating to "testing procedures" and "bill accuracy certification" outlines the process to ensure quality billing. As you know, both our teams are currently working to implement this portion of the agreement and will continue to do so until we are jointly satisfied with the outcome.

Finally, as AT&T prepares to enter the local market, I'm sure you are developing an appreciation for how sophisticated ordering and billing systems must be. Thus, the people responsible for processing orders must be extremely knowledgeable. Judging from the high

error rate on the local orders you've sent us, so far, it is most probable that billing errors will occur. Let me suggest you take advantage of the offer in my letter of June 11, 1997 (attached) to provide support in this area.

Sincerely,

Attachment

cc: Mark Feidler

Joe Baker

Terrie Hudson

# **ATTACHMENT 16**

1 2		BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA					
3	HEARING #9633	JULY 7, 1997	11:00 A.M				
5 6 7 8	DOCKET NO. 97(101(C: BE into InterLATA Toll Market [Se	LLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICA	ATIONS, INC Entry				
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12 13 14 15 16 17 18	James M. McDaniel, William C R. Glenn Rhyne, Manager, an	uty Executive Director; D. Wayne D. Richardson, and David S. Lacost and James E. Spearman, Research l; and MaryJane Cooper and Yventon	te, Utilities Department Department; F. David				
19 20 21	BELLSOUTH COMPANIES: William Ellenburg, Esq., an TELECOMMUNICATIONS, IN	d Edward Rankin, Esq., repre	senting BELLSOUTH				
22 23 24	representing BELLSOUTH LON	Kevin A. Hall, Esq., and D NG DISTANCE, INC.	Owight F. Drake, Esq.				
25 26 27	Matthews, Esq., representing SP	R. Atkinson, Esq., Darra W. Cothra RINT COMMUNICATIONS COM . Hoefer, Esq., and Marsha A. W	ſPANY, L.P.				
28 29 30 31	representing SOUTH CAROLIN	NS, INC.  Collins, Esq., and Mitchell INA CABLE TELEVISION ASSOCULABLE, representing COMMUN	IATION.				
32 33	OF AMERICA.	P. Mood, Esq., Kenneth P. Mo					
34 35 36	Hopkins, Esq., and Steve A. Ma OF THE SOUTHERN STATES	atthews, Esq., representing AT&T	COMMUNICATIONS				
37 38	FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH (						
39 40	Communications Services, Inc.). M. John	Bowen, Jr., Esq., representing	SOUTH CAROLINA				
41 42		Ellerbe III, Esq., representing	SOUTH CAROLINA				
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- dates are available in the pre-ordering phase via LENS, is
- 2 that correct?
- 3 A Yes, I did. Due dates are in kind of a gray area
- 4 between pre-ordering and ordering, and they are available
- 5 through LENS in both the pre-ordering mode and the ordering
- 6 mode. But, depending on which mode you're in, due dates can
- 7 be slightly different. So you can't always characterize
- 8 them as being strictly pre-ordering.
- 9 Q Well, then, you just contradicted yourself, didn't you?
- 10 either they are or they aren't available in the pre-ordering
- 11 phase?
- 12 A Due date information is available in the pre-ordering
- 13 phase, yes.
- 14 Q Isn't it true, Ms. Calhoun, that only the intervals are
- available in the pre-ordering phase, and that the CLEC does
- not have due date information available to it in the pre-
- 17 ordering phase?
- 18 A No, I don't think that's true.
- 19 Q Okay. Later on page 11, I think down around line 19,
- you address the dual entry issue that competing LECs have.
- 21 And that's one of the issues that Competing LECs have given
- 22 to Commissioners about why LENS is not, I guess, sufficient
- from a Competing LECs' perspective and is not in parity.
- 24 You mentioned that there are a couple of different options

- 1 or three different options that a CLEC can avail itself of.
- One is, that a CLEC can take information off of one screen,
- 3 on the inquiry screen, and cut-and-paste it to the CLECs'
- 4 Microsoft compatible screen on their system, is that
- 5 correct?
- 6 A Yes, that's one way to do it.
- 7 Q Okay. Now, if you use cut-and-paste, that just
- 8 eliminates the need to retype it, isn't that correct?
- 9 A Yes. That's what we mean by manual re-entry of data.
- 10 Q Okay. And so, if the CLEC doesn't have the Microsoft
- 11 compatible order entry system, then cut-and-paste is not
- 12 even an option, is it?
- 13 A That's correct.
- 14 Q Okay. And it takes time to cut-and-paste, does it not?
- 15 A Yes, but not much.
- 16 Q Okay. But even so, does the BellSouth order entry
- 17 representatives have to cut-and-paste or re-enter any
- 18 information?
- 19 A Yes, sometimes they do.
- 20 Q For example, what?
- 21 A For example, there are some instances of telephone
- 22 number assignment that can't be carried over directly to a
- 23 service order, and service reps will actually have to write
- them down and re-enter them.

- 1 Q But they have various databases available to them at
- 2 one time that they can toggle between, and things of that
- 3 nature, isn't that right?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q Okay. And that's not available to a Competing LEC, and
- 6 that's why the Competing LEC has to write this information
- 7 down -- because if they get out of one screen, then that
- 8 information is gone -- is that correct?
- 9 A No, I don't think that's correct.
- 10 Q Okay. To obtain the data -- one of the other options
- is to obtain the data for the CLEC through its own
- 12 customization, is that correct?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q And provide its own customized interface? To do that,
- 15 the CLEC would need to know the specifications of the
- BellSouth system, is that correct?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q And the specifications will help that CLEC evaluate the
- 19 cost and what they would need to do in order to build their
- 20 own interface, is that correct?
- 21 A Yes.
- Q Okay. Now, Ms. Calhoun, maybe you can help me with
- this, because MCI has asked probably six weeks ago and has
- 24 continuously asked in the past six weeks to get the

- 1 specifications from BellSouth. Should we be asking you or
- 2 somebody in your group for the specifications on LENS?
- 3 A Well, you could.
- 4 Q Can I?
- 5 A I would be happy to provide them. If there has been
- 6 some misunderstanding, we certainly want to make our
- 7 specifications available to MCI.
- 8 Q All right. And if it is not you, who else should we
- 9 talk to to get a response?
- 10 A You could talk with Linda Tate.
- 11 Q BellSouth has been continuously -- well, there have
- been several additions to the LENS. One is, the zip code
- information is now available that Competing LECs wanted.
- 14 The other that I'm aware of is, the customer service
- 15 records, and you mentioned that in your testimony. When
- 16 LENS is updated, when and how are Competing LECs notified of
- 17 any changes in the system?
- 18 A I think it depends on the system and the degree of the
- 19 change. What has happened up to this point is that we have
- 20 had CLEC conferences, and we have presented information in
- 21 those conferences, and we have also had CLEC training
- classes. So, now that people are beginning to be trained on
- 23 LENS, we're providing that information in the context of the
- 24 training and in updates to the training manuals that are

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- 1 think you might be able to do it?" And BellSouth gets those
- 2 kinds of inquiries and handles those by looking at an
- 3 installation calendar.
- 4 Q. Isn't that going to be the exception rather than the rule?
- 5 A. I don't know.
- 6 Q. So you don't know if new entrants are going to--would you
- 7 expect new entrants to try to get due dates when they are not
- 8 going to place an order on a regular basis?
- 9 A. I don't know. Again, the due date information isn't
- 10 necessarily required for many of the types of orders that we
- 11 would expect new entrants to place. If an existing customer
- 12 wants to switch their service to another local service
- provider, their service is already installed. Again, that's a
- 14 billing record change. So, I mean, I can't really say that
- 15 they would need access to that information on most of the
- orders.
- 17 Q. Let's talk about LENS capacity. How many simultaneous
- 18 users can LENS support?
- 19 A. We haven't found the upper limit of that yet. We're still
- working to try to find out if there is a point where we would
- 21 have a problem.
- Q. Have you identified any number?
- 23 A. The number changes depending on the test conditions.
- We're operating totally separate from the LENS system that's